

Constitutional Amendment 1 to invest in New Mexico's children and ensure that every single child across our State has access to early childhood education and care.

Last week, New Mexicans showed up across the State in every city, in every county, in every community. From Mescalero to Mountainair, from Albuquerque to Anton Chico, from Sandia Pueblo to Santa Rosa, and from Rio Rancho to Roswell and Ruidoso, over 70 percent of New Mexicans voted to invest in early childhood education and care.

New Mexicans believe in our people, they believe in our communities, and they believe that every single child should have what they need to thrive. But we have one more hurdle to cross to make this a reality, and that sits with our body here in Congress.

Because of antiquated laws that were put on the books over a century ago, we must provide concurrence so that our communities are able to tap these funds and make historic investments in our kids.

Today, I urge every single Member of this body to hear our voices, to hear the voices of New Mexicans and our children. New Mexicans want our kids to be able to access the resources they need. They are ready to lead the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to pass this concurring language now without delay and invest in New Mexico, our children, and our future.

□ 1515

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 8454. An ACT to expand research on cannabidiol and marijuana, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-201, as amended by Public Law 105-275, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress:

Natalie Anne Merchant of New York.

THE END OF AN ERA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, the House will be leaving town today, heading back to our States, heading back to our districts. Obviously, this will be a week of thanksgiving and, obviously, I wish all of my colleagues well and safe travel. We have much, of course, for which to be thankful in this great country.

But there are great concerns that we face. Today, obviously, we had the speech and the news about the future of Speaker PELOSI. The outgoing Speaker has had a long career in this body, and I wish her well. I wish her the best in the next chapter of her life.

Some are saying it is an end of an era; and I would say that it is only an end of an era if we choose to make it so.

Speaker PELOSI ran this Chamber not terribly unlike her Republican predecessors, and I don't necessarily mean that to be the right way to do things; bills that are cooked up in small rooms among leadership staff and Members of leadership; thousands of pages of legislation dropped on Members at the 11th hour; key pieces of legislation that are shuttled through committee without significant debate and then dropped on the floor.

Sometimes we have what is called suspension votes, where we suspend the rules and we have votes on the floor with no Members here to debate it or discuss it; just take the word of the committees on which I don't serve; amendments on the floor of this body restrained since May of 2016, under both parties' leadership.

Some people refer to this as a cartel. Some refer to it as the swamp. What it is, regardless of branding, we know that it takes power away from the legislators and, thereby, takes power away from the people who sent their legislators here to represent them.

The only way we are going to make this the end of an era is if we change the way we do things, and we should. I am saying this now that there is a Republican majority about to take the gavel. I believe we have to change the way this town works. I believe we have to change the way this body works.

The reason that I introduced the Article I Act in the first Congress that I served in this body, while President Trump was in office, to reclaim power from the executive branch, to say that we must have a voice in these ongoing emergency declarations, some of which date back to the 1970s. The reason that I did that was because I believed it, even though it would have taken power away from a Republican President.

I am wondering now if some of my Democratic colleagues will think, well, maybe that is not a terrible idea if we look ahead. I don't know.

Here, in this Chamber, I am, as a Republican, calling on a fundamental change in the way we do things here; how bills get to the floor.

Most people might not understand that the default rules that would go back to the Jefferson Manual and the basic rules of parliamentary procedure would be that I have the right to be able to offer a bill; and that then you would have the right to amend the bill here on the floor of this body; this being the floor of the House of Representatives.

But what the American people don't know is that every Congress we come

in and we vote on new rules, and we vote on rules that, then, restrict the power of every Member of this body to be able to represent their constituents.

We restrict the power of a Member to offer a bill, to bring that bill to a vote, to have debate on that bill, to amend that bill here on the floor of the House of Representatives. That is the way it works.

Then we even go further. Every week, we fly in and then we have votes on rules, rules that are cooked up among 13 Members of the House of Representatives who sit up in a committee up here, behind these walls, and they vote a new rule, and send it down here; and then the body votes on the rule that then structures debate for the week.

Then can I offer an amendment here on the floor? No. You know why? Because people are afraid to vote.

Members of this body, sent to vote on legislation and to represent their constituents, are afraid to vote. Can you imagine, in the founding of this country, the establishment of this body, the people's House, to go get reelected every two years, to go seek re-election, that we are afraid to vote?

Do you know how many times if I bring up opening the process and opening up the floor of the House, colleagues on my side of the aisle, the other side of the aisle go, well, you know, don't you know that means somebody could bring up a really tough vote.

Well, if you vote "no" on a whole lot of tough votes, like I tend to do, you get kind of used to it, and you get used to what you have to do, which is go explain to your constituents why there ain't no free lunch.

This isn't the United States House of free stuff. You can't just keep passing bills to spend money we don't have to buy off votes. You can't keep voting for bills that have a nice title so that you don't have to go back and explain why you voted, as I did, against burn pit legislation for veterans who need support and help for burn pits. But you vote against it because you don't need another \$675 billion mandatory spending item.

Yet, bipartisan support for a bill because nobody wants to go say no. Nobody wants to go look in a veteran's eye and explain the hard reality of what we need to do in this body.

Nobody wants to say no to a bill that says ALS research. Nobody wants to say no to a bill that says something about helping animals or helping old people or helping kids. You put a nice title on there, then everybody has got to vote for. It doesn't matter which side of the aisle you are on; you have got to vote for it because there is no spending limit. There is no restraint. There is no responsibility.

There is no leadership. There is no check on unrestrained power of the executive branch by this body because this body keeps funding the very tyranny of the executive branch that many campaign against. That is the truth.